

# CHILD FATALITY REVIEW REPORT

## GILA AND PINAL COUNTIES

### CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN WHO DIED IN 2005

This report provides information on the deaths of children who were residents of either Gila or Pinal Counties at the time of their deaths. During 2005, there were a combined total of 60 fatalities among children birth through 17 years of age in the counties of Gila (11 deaths) and Pinal (49 deaths). Infants in the neonatal period (birth to 28 days old) comprised 40 percent of the childhood deaths in Gila and Pinal Counties during 2005. Figure 1 shows the number of boys and girls who died in each age group.

**Figure 1. Age Group and Gender for all Deaths  
Birth through 17 Years, Gila & Pinal Counties, 2005**

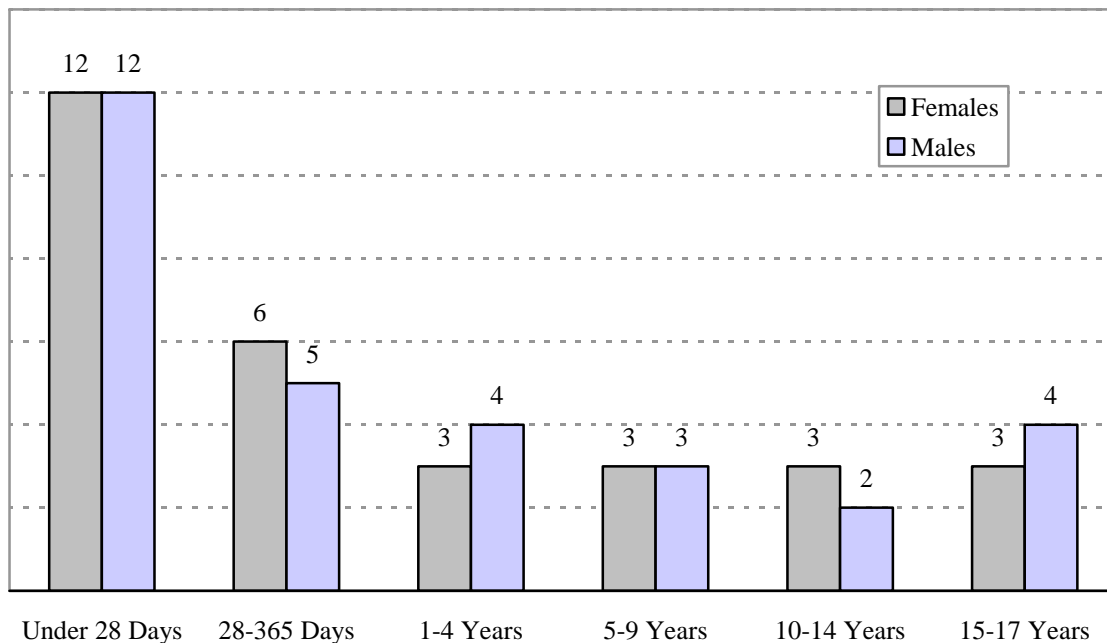
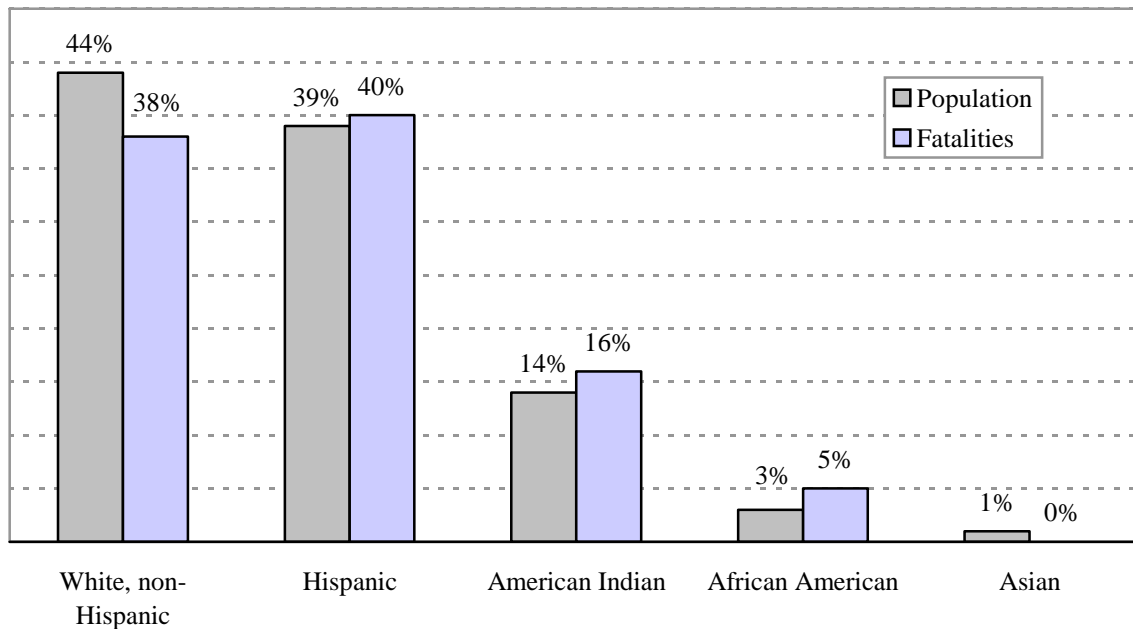


Figure 2 shows the racial and ethnic composition of the children who resided in Gila and Pinal Counties compared to fatalities of children who resided in Gila and Pinal Counties. African American and American Indian children were slightly over-represented among childhood fatalities in Gila and Pinal Counties compared to the population residing in those counties.

**Figure 2. Race/Ethnicity of Population Birth through 17 Years  
Compared to Fatalities, Gila & Pinal Counties, 2005**



## CAUSE AND MANNER OF CHILD FATALITIES

Cause of death refers to the injury or disease resulting in the death (e.g. motor vehicle crash, pneumonia). Manner of death explains how the death came about. Manners of death are categorized as natural, accident, homicide, suicide, or undetermined. In addition to reviewing medical examiner reports, Child Fatality Review Teams review records from hospitals, emergency departments, law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, and other sources. As a result of this comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach, the team's determination of cause and manner sometimes differs from those recorded on the death certificate.

Natural deaths (e.g. medical conditions, congenital anomalies, prematurity) accounted for 78 percent (n=47) of all childhood deaths of Gila and Pinal County residents. Overall, 17 percent of childhood deaths were due to an accident and 70 percent (n=7) of accidental deaths were due to motor vehicle crashes. Table 1 shows a cross-tabulation of the cause and manner of death for children who resided in Gila and Pinal Counties.

<b>Table 1. Cause And Manner of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Gila and Pinal Counties, 2005</b>						
<b><u>Cause</u></b>	<b><u>Accident</u></b>	<b><u>Homicide</u></b>	<b><u>Natural</u></b>	<b><u>Suicide</u></b>	<b><u>Undetermined</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Medical*</b>	0	0	33	0	0	33
<b>Prematurity</b>			11			11
<b>MVC</b>	7					7
<b>Suffocation</b>	2	1				3
<b>SIDS</b>			3			3
<b>Hanging</b>				1		1
<b>Blunt Force Trauma</b>		1				1
<b>Drowning</b>	1					1
<b>Total</b>	10	2	47	1	0	60
<b>Percent of Total</b>	17%	3%	78%	2%	0%	
*Excluding SIDS and prematurity						

## **PREVENTABILITY**

During reviews, teams examine the circumstances surrounding the death and identify factors that may have contributed to the death. Part of this review includes a 34-item checklist of contributing factors. After reviewing the contributing factors, the team determines whether the death was preventable.

Child Fatality Review Teams consider a child's death preventable if an individual or the community could reasonably have done something that would have changed the circumstances that led to the child's death. Local Child Fatality Review Teams determined that 17 (28 percent) of the deaths of children who resided in Gila and Pinal Counties were preventable in 2005.

Existence of a contributing factor did not necessarily result in the determination that a death was preventable. Thirty-five percent of all deaths (n=21) had at least one contributing factor noted. Table 2 shows the top contributing factors for the deaths of resident children of Gila and Pinal Counties in 2005, and the number of deaths that had the contributing factor noted.

<b>Table 2. Top Contributing Factors to Child Fatalities, Birth through 17 Years, Gila and Pinal Counties, 2005</b>	
<b><u>Factor</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Lack of Parenting Skills</b>	8
<b>Lack of Supervision</b>	7
<b>Driving at Excessive Speed</b>	6
<b>Drugs/Alcohol</b>	6

## **GILA AND PINAL COUNTY CHILD FATALITIES COMPARED TO OTHER ARIZONA COUNTIES**

This section will compare the deaths of children who resided in Gila or Pinal Counties to the deaths of children who resided in the remaining 13 Arizona counties. In 2005, 60 children who were residents of Gila or Pinal Counties died, and 1,013 children died who were residents of the other 13 counties. Child Fatality Review Teams found that Gila and Pinal Counties had a smaller percentage of preventable deaths than the remaining counties in Arizona. Overall, 28 percent of Gila and Pinal County deaths were preventable (n=17), compared to 33 percent of deaths in the remaining counties (n=334).

Table 3 provides a comparison of the top causes of childhood deaths for Gila and Pinal Counties compared to the rest of Arizona. The leading causes of death for Gila and Pinal Counties as well as for the remainder of Arizona, were medical causes (other than prematurity and SIDS), prematurity, and motor vehicle crashes.

<b>Table 3. Leading Causes of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Gila and Pinal Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005</b>			
<b><u>Gila &amp; Pinal Counties (n=60)</u></b>		<b><u>Arizona, excluding Gila &amp; Pinal Counties (n=1,013)</u></b>	
<b><u>Cause</u></b>	<b><u>Percent of Total</u></b>	<b><u>Cause</u></b>	<b><u>Percent of Total</u></b>
<b>Medical*</b>	55%	<b>Medical*</b>	38%
<b>Prematurity</b>	18%	<b>Prematurity</b>	26%
<b>MVC</b>	12%	<b>MVC</b>	10%
*Excluding SIDS and prematurity			

Table 4 compares the manner of childhood deaths for residents of Gila and Pinal Counties to other Arizona counties. The leading manner of death was natural, accounting for over half of childhood deaths in Gila and Pinal Counties (78 percent) and all other Arizona counties (68 percent), followed by accidental deaths. This comparison reveals that a smaller percentage of childhood deaths were due to accidents, homicides, suicides and undetermined manner for Gila and Pinal Counties than for the remainder of Arizona.

<b>Table 4. Manner of Death, Birth through 17 Years, Gila and Pinal Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005</b>			
<b><u>Gila &amp; Pinal Counties (n=60)</u></b>		<b><u>Arizona, excluding Gila &amp; Pinal Counties (n=1,013)</u></b>	
<b><u>Manner</u></b>	<b><u>Percent of Total</u></b>	<b><u>Manner</u></b>	<b><u>Percent of Total</u></b>
<b>Natural</b>	78%	<b>Natural</b>	68%
<b>Accident</b>	17%	<b>Accident</b>	20%
<b>Homicide</b>	3%	<b>Homicide</b>	5%
<b>Suicide</b>	2%	<b>Suicide</b>	3%
<b>Undetermined</b>	0%	<b>Undetermined</b>	3%

Figure 3 compares the age distribution of childhood deaths of residents of Gila and Pinal Counties with the remaining Arizona counties. Gila and Pinal Counties had a lower proportion of deaths of children 28 to 365 days old and 15 through 17 years old, but a somewhat higher proportion of deaths occurring to children in all other age groups.

**Figure 3. Percent of Fatalities by Age Group, Birth through 17 Years, Gila & Pinal Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005**

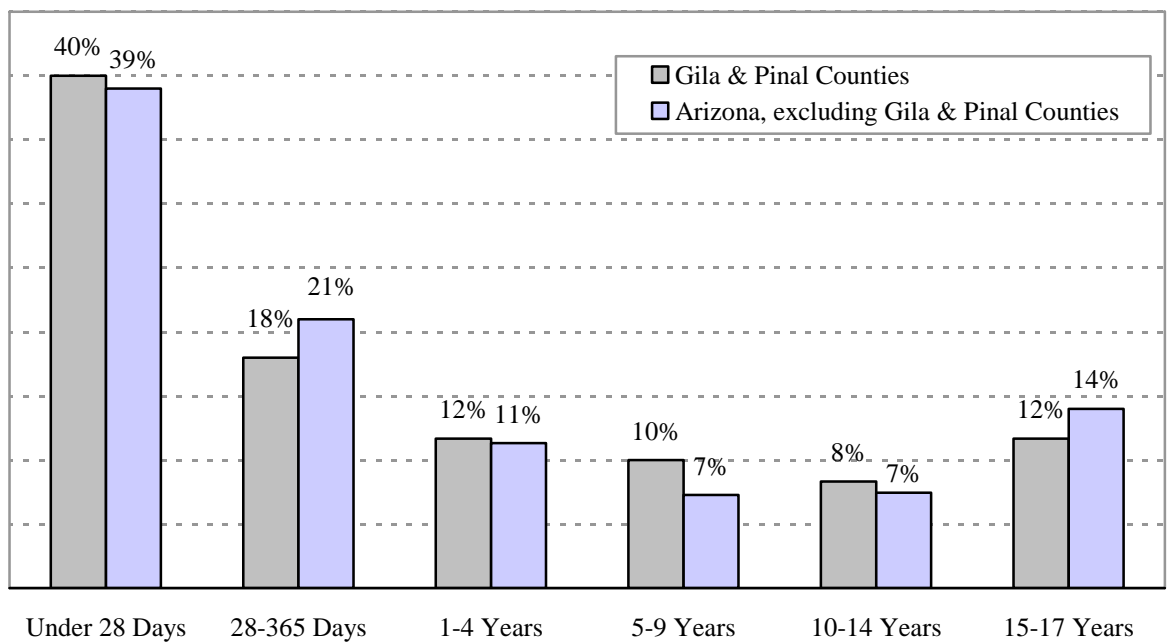


Figure 4 shows a comparison of childhood deaths by gender of residents of Gila and Pinal Counties with the other Arizona counties. Males and females were equally represented among childhood deaths in Gila and Pinal Counties, however in the remaining Arizona counties more males than females died during childhood in 2005.

**Figure 4. Percent of Fatalities by Gender, Birth through 17 Years, Gila & Pinal Counties Compared to Other Arizona Counties, 2005**

